

Year	Per Hectare Yield of Paddy (Kg/Hectare)			
	India	China	Japan	USA
2002-03	3111	4108	5850	7477
2003-04	3041	7498	6415	7833
2004-05	3147	3899	6648	7438

SOURCE: FAO website accessed on 30.04.2007

Among the above three countries, India's per hectare yield of paddy is the lowest. The yield of rice is equal to 2/3 of paddy yield.

(c) and (d) In order to increase the productivity and production of paddy/rice, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)" is already in place. Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 90:10 per cent basis between the Government of India and the State Governments, for production and distribution of certified seeds, propagation of improved production technology, integrated pest management, training of farmers, farm implements, installation of sprinkler irrigation system and varietal replacement. Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed more than 700 high yielding varieties and 28 hybrids suitable for different agro-climatic conditions. Frontline demonstration are also organized by ICAR on farmers' fields on 100% Central Government assistance for transfer of technology. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the paddy growers through the price support mechanism.

**Crop loss due to snowfall and rains in northern India**

3198. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that untimely and unseasoned snowfall and rains in northern India during March, 2007 has destroyed crops in the . areas;
- (b).if so, the details thereof and the likely loss of wheat and other cereals due to rains and snowfall;

- (c) whether sufficient stocks are available to meet the shortfall; and
- (d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure full availability of foodgrains during the coming months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Governments of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have reported damage to crops due to rains and hailstorms during February and March, 2007. As per available information, damage has been caused to wheat and other crops.

State-wise details of crop area affected, as reported by the States/as per available information, is indicated below:

State	Crop area affected
Haryana	5.78 lakh acres
Madhya Pradesh	1.74 lakh hectares
Punjab	2.15 lakh acres
Rajasthan	2.93 lakh hectares
Uttarakhand	1.54 lakh hectares
Uttar Pradesh	4.12 lakh hectares

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Promotion of Bt. cotton**

3199. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States have been identified as holding special promise for hybrid Bt. cotton;
- (b) if so, what are these and to what extent; and
- (c) whether direction, if any, has been issued to different States to promote hybrid Bt. cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Bt. cotton hybrids have been released